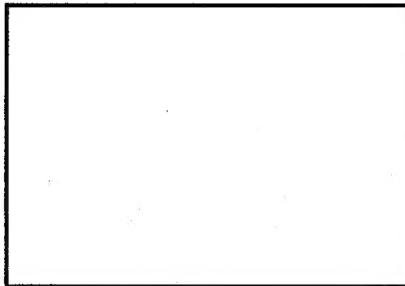




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# The Abu Nidal Organization



A Reference Aid

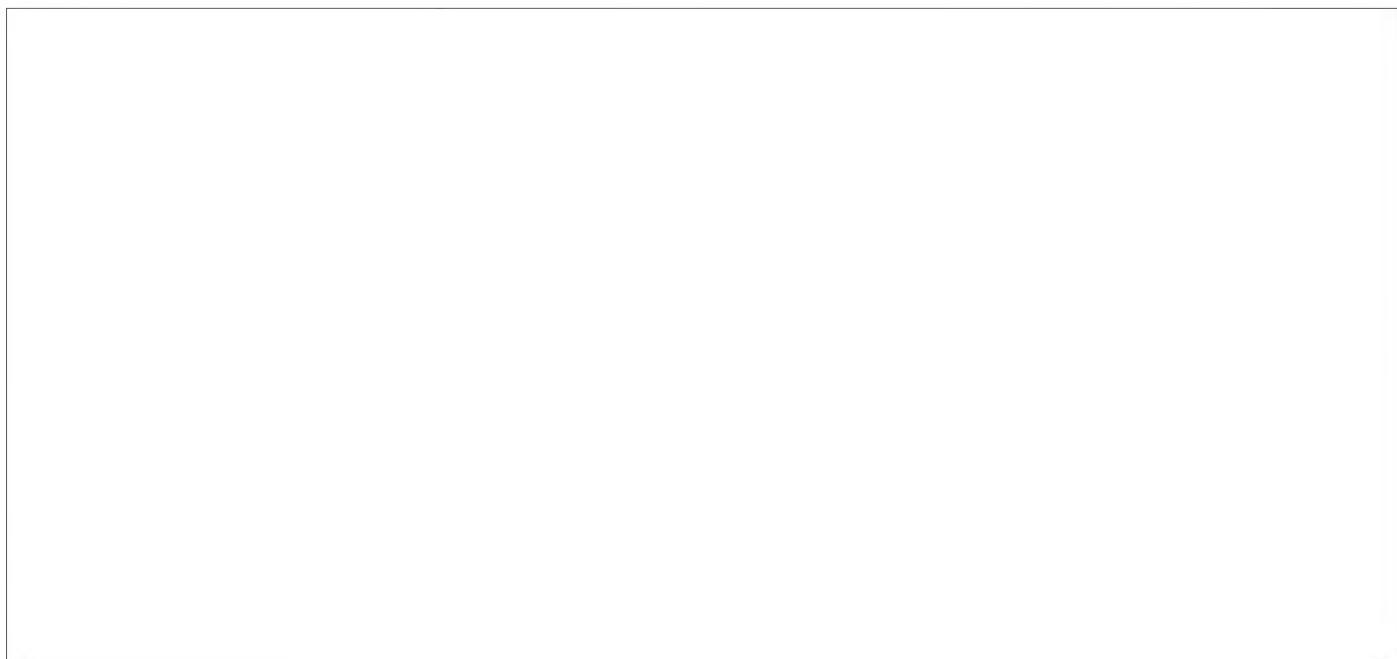
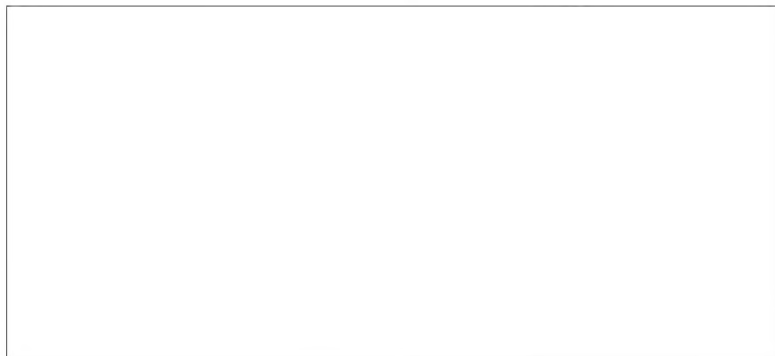
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February 1987

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# The Abu Nidal Organization (U)

## A Reference Aid

This paper was prepared by Robert Fountain, Office of Leadership Analysis, with research assistance from David Blink, LDA, and contributions from the Counterterrorism Center of the Directorate of Operations. It was coordinated with the Directorate of Operations. (U)

Comments and queries are welcome and may be directed to the Chief, Asia/Near East Division, LDA, on 482-5051 or secure 352446. (U)

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**The Abu Nidal  
Organization (U)**

**Preface**

*Information available  
as of 9 January 1987  
was used in this report.*

As its most recent attacks have demonstrated, the Abu Nidal Organization is among the most dangerous and effective of all terrorist groups. It is probably also the best organized of the radical Palestinian terrorist groups.

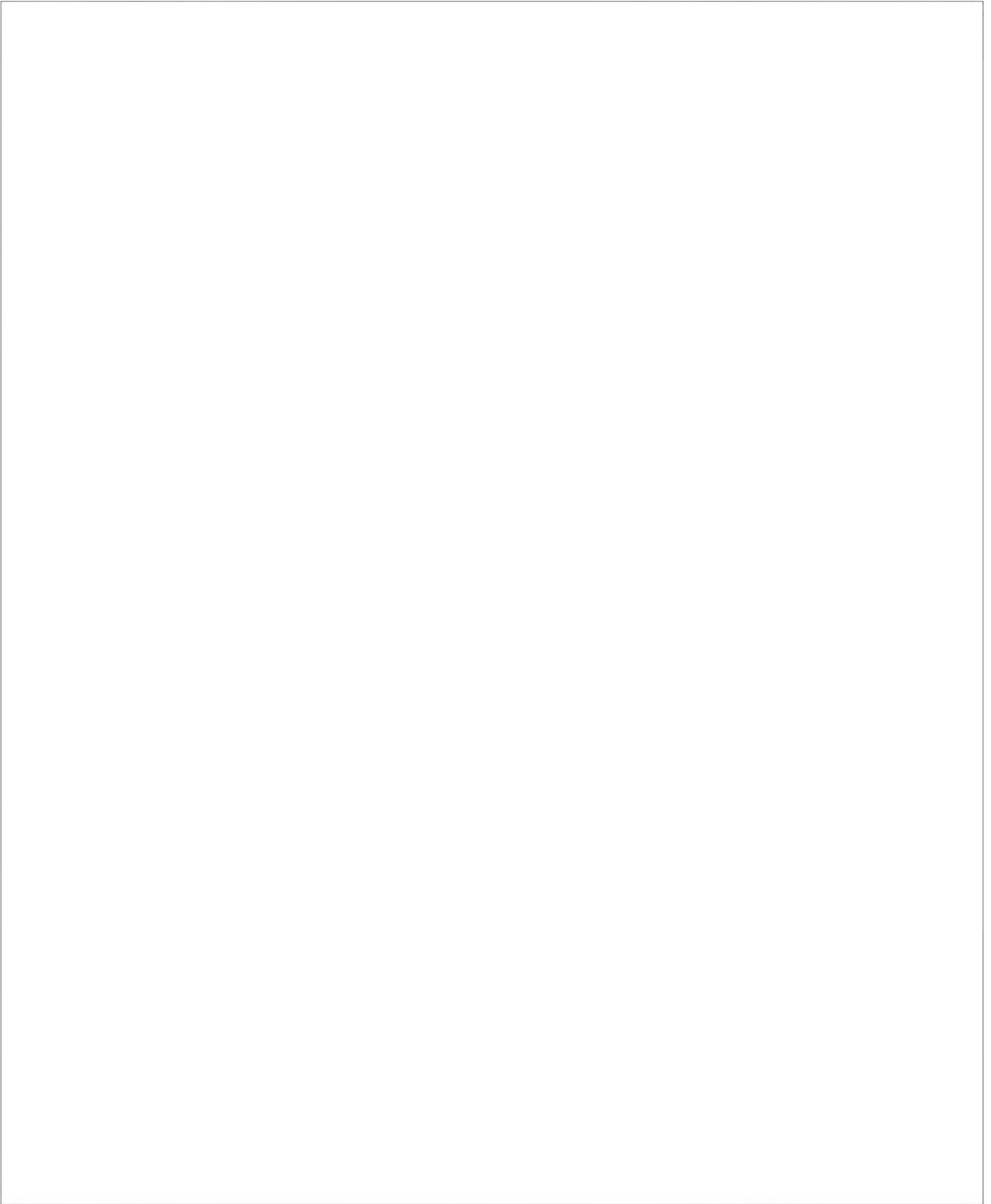
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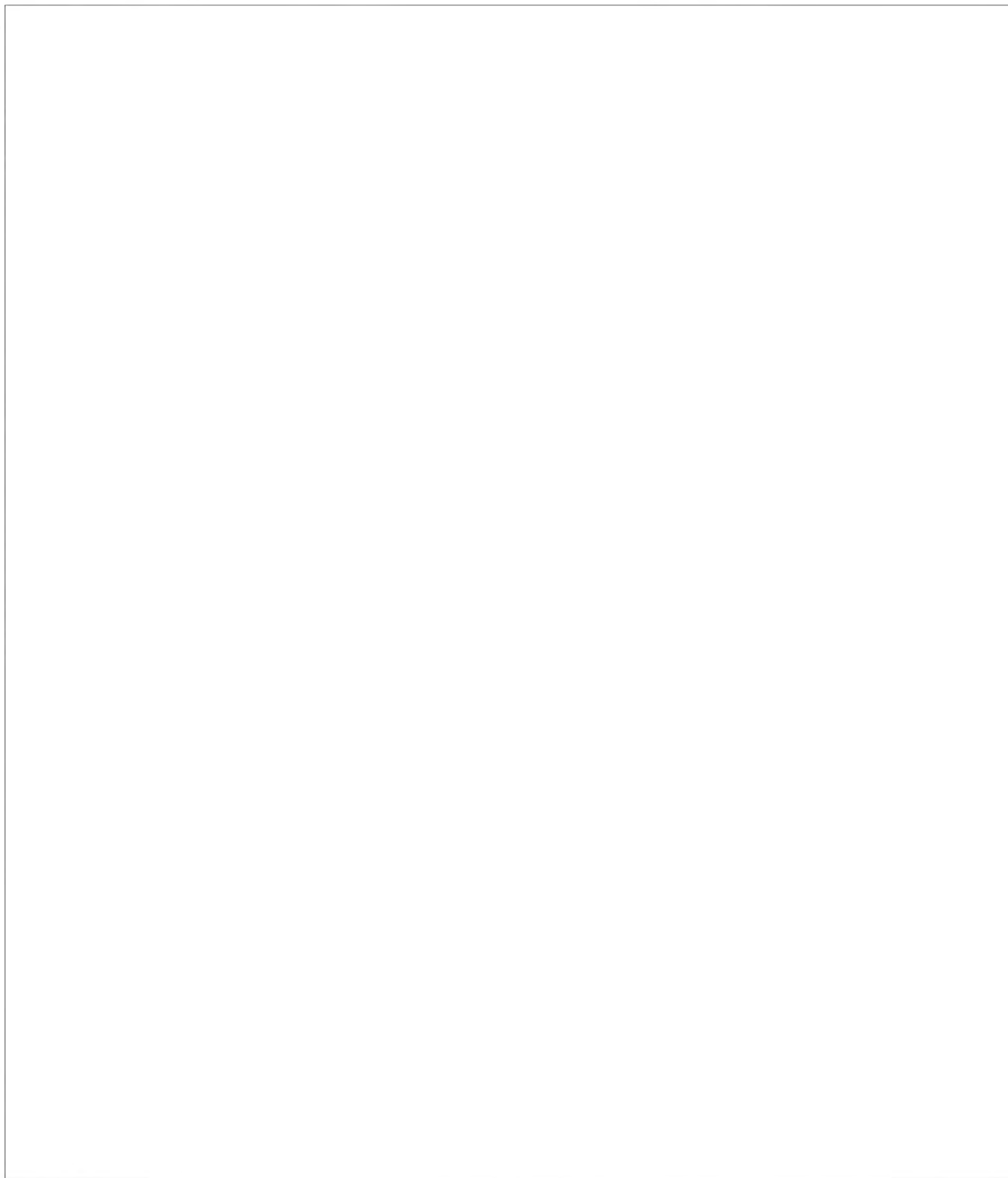


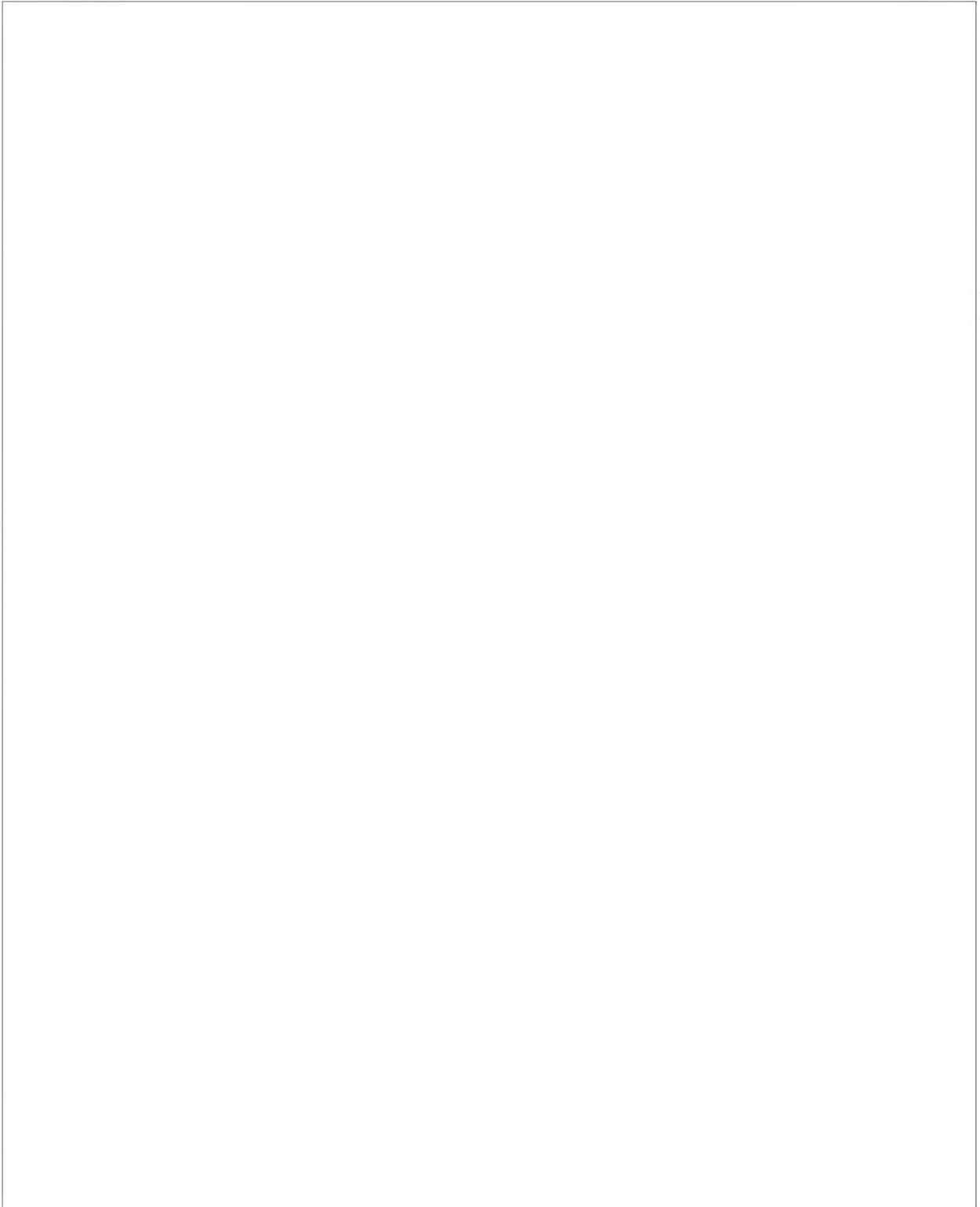
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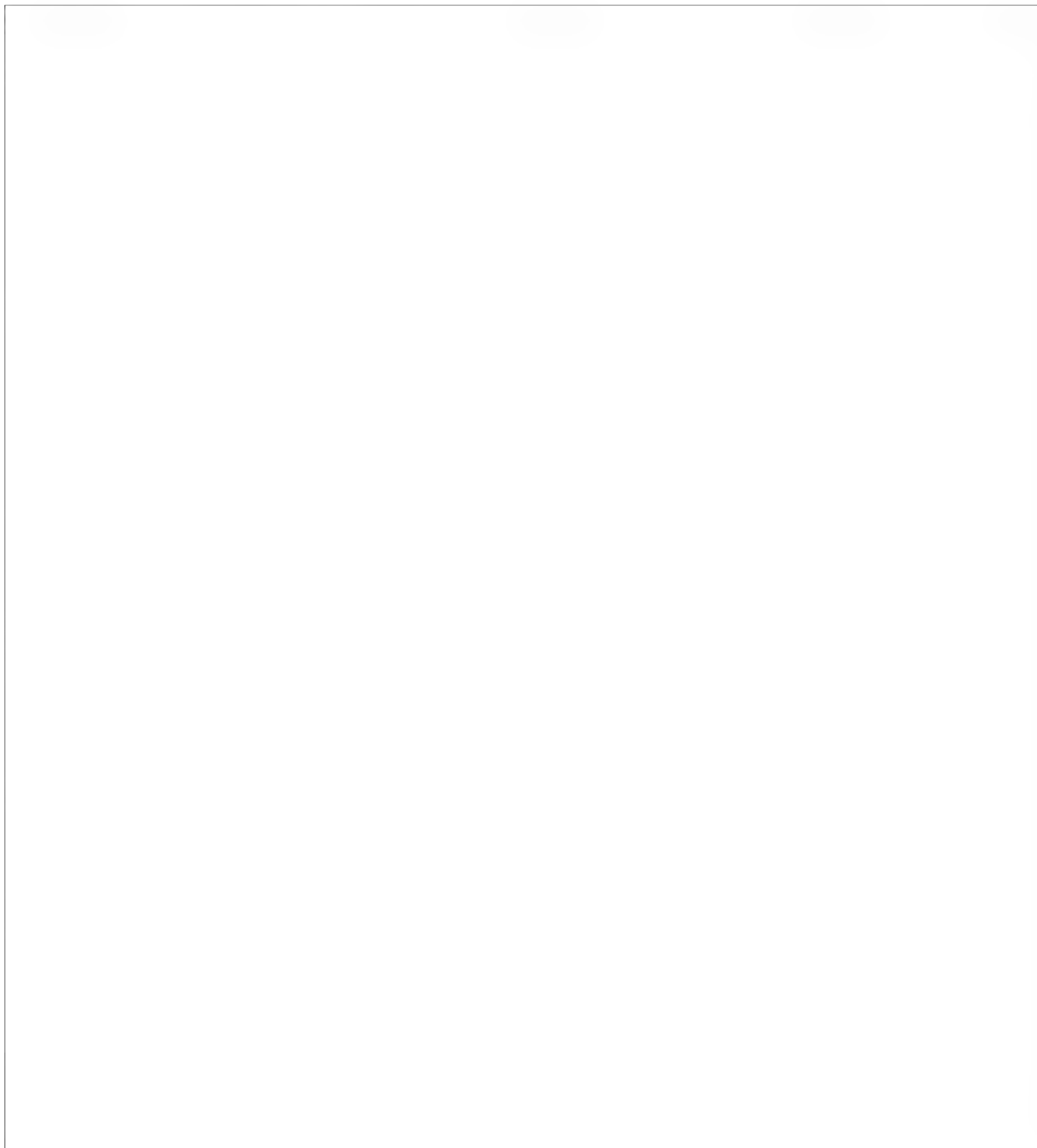
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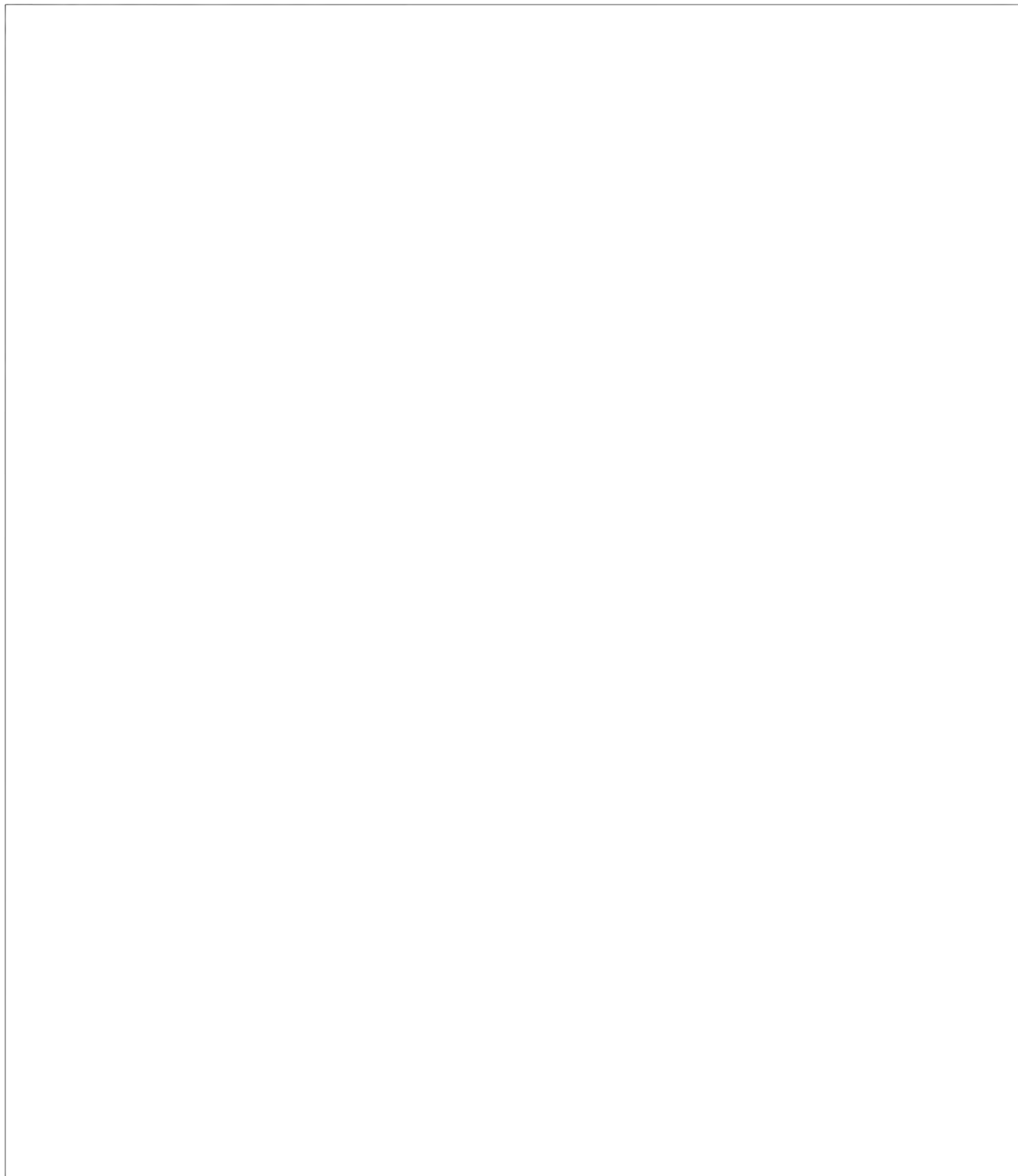
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**Appendix****Chronology of  
Abu Nidal Organization  
Terrorist Activities, 1974-86**

This chronology was compiled to give the fullest representation possible of the ANO's operational range and capabilities. It includes terrorist activities and planned operations that are directly attributed to the ANO and situations where Abu Nidal involvement is only suspected or assumed.

**1974****22 November**

United Arab Emirates (UAE): Four terrorists, armed with machineguns, handgrenades, and pistols, hijack British Airways plane en route from Dubayy to Tunis . . . two people wounded during takeover . . . plane took off with about 46 hostages, refueled in Tripoli, Libya, and went on to Tunis . . . one passenger killed on ground; remaining hostages later released . . . Abu Nidal suspected.

**Late 1974**

Location unknown; probably Lebanon: Assassination planned by Sabri al-Banna against Yasir 'Arafat, Salah Khalaf (Abu Iyad), and other prominent Palestinian leaders uncovered by Fatah intelligence . . . Banna sentenced to death in absentia in October.

**1976****26 September**

Syria: Four terrorists, armed with machineguns and grenades, take over Semiramis Hotel in Damascus, taking 90 hostages . . . about 50 Syrian Army Special Forces troops ordered to storm hotel . . . one terrorist killed and three captured; four hostages killed and 34 wounded.

**11 October**

Pakistan: Grenade attack on Syrian Embassy and Syrian Ambassador's residence in Islamabad . . . Abu Nidal suspected.

**17 November**

Jordan: Four Palestinians attack Intercontinental Hotel with handguns and grenades, killing two employees and taking hostages . . . Jordanian troops counterattack, killing three terrorists and wounding one . . . two soldiers, one hotel guest killed; four hotel guests wounded.

**2 December**

Syria: Syrian Foreign Minister 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam seriously wounded in assassination attempt in Damascus . . . Abu Nidal suspected.

**1977****25 October**

UAE: Assassination attempt against Syrian Foreign Minister Khaddam in Abu Dhabi results in death of UAE Minister of State.

**1978****4 January**

United Kingdom: PLO representative Sa'id Hammami assassinated in London . . . Abu Nidal suspected.

**15 February**

Cyprus: Two gunmen attack Afro-Asian Peoples' Solidarity Organization meeting in Nicosia and kill its secretary general, Yusuf as-Siba'i, a confidant of Anwar El Sadat . . . leave country on aircraft with 11 hostages but refused permission to land in Libya, Kuwait, Somalia, Ethiopia, or South Yemen . . . subsequently return to Larnaca Airport . . . Egyptian counterterrorism force conducts unauthorized airborne assault on airport . . . resulting firefight kills 15 and wounds 16.

~~Secret~~**15 June**

Kuwait: PLO official assassinated in Kuwait . . . Abu Nidal suspected.

**3 August**

France: Two gunmen attack PLO Paris office and kill representative to France, 'Izz al-Din al-Qalaq . . . claimed by Black June and Black September.

**5 August**

Pakistan: Four gunmen, armed with submachineguns and grenades, attack PLO office in Islamabad and kill radio operator, two Palestinian students, and Pakistani police guard . . . Abu Nidal suspected.

**1979****2 June**

Kuwait: Four suspected Abu Nidal members arrested for planning attack in Kuwait.

**1980****17 January**

France: Manager of Arab bookstore assassinated in Paris . . . Abu Nidal claims responsibility in name of Revolutionary Council of the Palestine National Liberation Movement.

**3 March**

Spain: Gunman mistakenly shoots and kills Spanish attorney Adolfo Coteló Villareal—apparent target Max Mazin, a leader of Spanish Jewish community . . . Abu Nidal suspected.

**22 April**

Yugoslavia: Attempted assassination of Fatah official Salah Khalaf in Belgrade; one bodyguard wounded . . . Abu Nidal suspected.

**June**

Bulgaria: Two Abu Nidal members arrested in Bulgaria while transporting arms for possible attack in Rome.

**5 June**

Kuwait: Attempted assassination of PLO representative in Kuwait . . . Abu Nidal suspected.

**July**

Belgium: Israeli commercial attache assassinated in Brussels . . . claimed by Abu Nidal.

**July**

Netherlands: Attack on Agudat Israel synagogue in Antwerp; several persons killed . . . Abu Nidal suspected.

**1981****1 May**

Austria: Head of Austrian-Israeli Friendship Society assassinated in Vienna.

**1 June**

Belgium: PLO representative assassinated in Brussels . . . Abu Nidal suspected.

**29 August**

Austria: Two gunmen, armed with Polish machine pistols and handgrenades, attack Vienna synagogue . . . claimed by Abu Nidal.

**September**

UAE: Authorities arrest three Abu Nidal members planning to mount attack on US Embassy in Abu Dhabi.

**23 September**

Cyprus: Two Arabs attack Israeli shipping firm in Limassol with handgrenades, injuring five employees . . . Abu Nidal suspected.

**9 October**

Italy: Senior PLO official assassinated in Rome . . . claimed by Abu Nidal.

**November**

Spain: Abu Nidal member assassinated in Madrid in internal organizational dispute.

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~~Secret~~**1982****4 February**

Austria: Bomb explodes at residence of chief rabbi in Vienna, causing some property damage but no casualties.

**1 March**

Spain: Nabil Aranki, a coleader of Arab People's Liberation Movement (APLM), a splinter group of the Abu Nidal group, assassinated in Madrid . . . Abu Nidal suspected.

**3 June**

United Kingdom: Attempted assassination of Israeli Ambassador Shlomo Argov in London . . . precipitates Israeli invasion of Lebanon.

**5 June**

India: First secretary of Kuwaiti Embassy assassinated in New Delhi . . . claimed by Arab Revolutionary Brigades.

**17 June**

Italy: Deputy director of PLO office in Rome assassinated . . . Abu Nidal suspected.

**17 June**

Italy: PLO activist assassinated in Rome . . . Abu Nidal suspected.

**9 July**

Turkey: President of Palestinian Student Union assassinated in Ankara . . . Abu Nidal suspected.

**23 July**

France: Deputy director of PLO office assassinated in Paris . . . claimed by Abu Nidal and Jewish Armed Resistance (Jewish Defense League splinter group).

**9 August**

France: Two gunmen with grenades and automatic weapons attack Jewish-owned restaurant.

**23 August**

Kuwait: UAE Charge d'Affaires wounded in assassination attempt . . . Abu Nidal suspected.

**26 August**

India: UAE Consul General in Bombay escapes injury in assassination attempt . . . Abu Nidal suspected.

**16 September**

Pakistan: Attempted assassination of Kuwaiti Consul General in Karachi . . . Abu Nidal suspected.

**18 September**

Spain: First secretary of Kuwaiti Embassy assassinated in Madrid, driver wounded . . . Abu Nidal suspected.

**9 October**

Italy: Grenade and machinegun attack against synagogue in Rome kills a child and wounds 10 . . . Abu Nidal suspected.

**9 November**

Israel: Two bombings north of Tel Aviv claimed by Abu Nidal.

**8 December**

Greece: Kuwait Airways offices bombed in Athens, no casualties . . . Abu Nidal suspected.

**1983****10 April**

Portugal: Issam Sartawi, prominent PLO moderate and close friend of 'Arafat's, killed in Lisbon . . . claimed by Abu Nidal in Damascus.

**20 August**

Greece: Assassination of aide to high-ranking Fatah official Khalil al-Wazir . . . Abu Nidal suspected.

**23 September**

UAE: Gulf Air Boeing 737 en route from Karachi, Pakistan, to Abu Dhabi crashes killing all 111 passengers and crew . . . crash may have been caused by bomb aboard aircraft . . . claimed by the Arab Revolutionary Brigades.

~~Secret~~

~~Secret~~**25 October**

India: Jordanian Ambassador wounded in assassination attempt in New Delhi ... claimed by Arab Revolutionary Brigades.

**26 October**

Italy: Jordanian Ambassador and driver wounded in assassination attempt in Rome ... claimed by Arab Revolutionary Brigades.

**31 October**

Jordan: Car bomb detonated outside main Jordanian Army officers' club in Az Zarqa', no casualties reported ... Abu Nidal suspected.

**7 November**

Greece: Two security guards of Jordanian Embassy in Athens attacked; one killed, one wounded ... claimed by Arab Revolutionary Brigades.

**12 November**

Jordan: Discovery of car bomb near British Embassy in Amman ... Abu Nidal suspected.

**19 December**

Turkey: Car bomb discovered midway between French Cultural House and Cordan Hotel used by US military personnel in Izmir ... target undetermined ... Abu Nidal suspected.

**20 December**

Turkey: Car bomb injures one person and causes extensive damage to apartment building near PLO office and living quarters in Ankara ... Abu Nidal suspected.

**29 December**

Turkey: Attempted bombing of Alitalia plane in Istanbul ... Abu Nidal suspected.

**29 December**

Spain: Two Jordanian Embassy employees attacked in Madrid; one killed, one wounded ... claimed by Arab Revolutionary Brigades.

**1984****8 February**

France: UAE Ambassador to France assassinated in Paris ... claimed by Arab Revolutionary Brigades and Islamic Jihad.

**March**

Greece: Alleged Abu Nidal operative arrested for planning assassination of Israeli Ambassador in Athens.

**24 March**

Jordan: Bomb defused outside British Consulate in Amman ... claimed by Abu Nidal.

**24 March**

Jordan: Bomb defused outside British cultural center in Amman ... claimed by Abu Nidal.

**24 March**

Jordan: Bomb explodes in parking lot of Intercontinental Hotel across street from US Embassy, damaging two vehicles and slightly injuring USAID employee and daughter; second bomb discovered and defused ... claimed by Abu Nidal.

**28 March**

Greece: British Embassy first secretary assassinated in Athens ... claimed by Revolutionary Organization of Socialist Muslims (ROSM).

**3 May**

Cyprus: Hana Muqbil, a Palestinian and reported former Abu Nidal member, assassinated in Nicosia ... Abu Nidal suspected.

**14 May**

North Yemen: Two Abu Nidal operatives arrested while planting bomb in Jordanian Embassy in Sanaa.

**3 June**

Egypt: Attack against Israeli Embassy worker in Cairo ... Abu Nidal suspected.

~~Secret~~

~~Secret~~**25 October**

Italy: UAE vice consul wounded and Iranian student accompanying him killed in assassination attempt in Rome ... claimed by Arab Revolutionary Brigades.

**November**

Lebanon: Bomb attack on British Airways office in Beirut ... claimed by ROSM.

**12 November**

Austria: Bomb partially explodes at Israeli El Al airlines office; no casualties ... Abu Nidal suspected.

**12 November**

Austria: Bomb explodes in entrance hallway of British Consulate ... Abu Nidal suspected.

**27 November**

India: British Deputy High Commissioner assassinated in New Delhi ... claimed by ROSM.

**29 November**

Greece: Attempted assassination of Jordan's Deputy Chief of Mission in Athens ... Abu Nidal suspected.

**4 December**

Romania: Deputy Chief of Mission of Jordanian Embassy assassinated in Bucharest ... claimed by Black September.

**14 December**

Italy: Isma'il Darwish, a leading military figure in Fatah movement, assassinated in Rome ... claimed by Arab Revolutionary Brigades.

**29 December**

Jordan: Two gunmen assassinate Fahd al-Qawasmah, member of PLO Executive Committee and former mayor of Hebron, in Amman ... claimed by Abu Nidal and the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP).

**1985****February**

West Germany: Arab arrested while transiting Frankfurt international airport with large quantity of military explosives en route to Spain, target unknown ... Abu Nidal suspected.

**9 March**

Italy: Abu Nidal member arrested for attempted sabotage of Royal Jordanian Airlines flight.

**21 March**

Italy: Grenade attack on Royal Jordanian Airlines office in Rome ... claimed by Black September.

**21 March**

Cyprus: Unidentified man throws two grenades into Royal Jordanian Airlines office in Nicosia ... claimed by Black September.

**21 March**

Greece: Grenade thrown into Royal Jordanian Airlines office in Athens, injuring three ... claimed by Black September.

**26 March**

Lebanon: British journalist working for UNRWA kidnaped in Beirut ... claimed by ROSM.

**3 April**

Italy: Rocket fired at Jordanian Embassy in Rome ... misses Embassy and hits apartment on fourth floor of the building, but causes no casualties ... claimed by Black September.

**4 April**

Greece: Rocket fired at Jordanian airliner as it takes off from Athens airport ... projectile hits plane but does not explode ... claimed by Black September.

**23 April**

Kuwait: Moderate newspaper editor wounded in assassination attempt ... claimed by Arab Revolutionary Brigades.

**May**

France: Five Abu Nidal members arrested while targeting British, Israeli, US, and Jordanian Embassies.

**15 May**

Lebanon: UNRWA official kidnaped but released the next day ... claimed by ROSM.

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**July**

Denmark: Synagogue and Northwest Orient airline office attacked in Copenhagen . . . Abu Nidal suspected.

**1 July**

Spain: Bomb explodes at British Air ticket office in Madrid, also damaging TWA office upstairs . . . Royal Jordanian Airlines ticket office nearby hit by automatic weapons fire and two grenades that fail to explode . . . one killed, 24 wounded . . . claimed by Organization of the Oppressed, ROSM, and Black September.

**11 July**

Kuwait: Two bombs explode within minutes of each other, killing eight and injuring 89 at two cafes about 10 kilometers apart in Kuwait city . . . third bomb defused at another cafe . . . claimed by Arab Revolutionary Brigades.

**21 July**

Lebanon: Bomb explodes outside Kuwaiti Airlines office in Beirut . . . no casualties reported . . . claimed by Arab Revolutionary Brigades.

**24 July**

Turkey: Ziyad al-Sati, First Secretary at Jordanian Embassy, assassinated in Ankara . . . claimed by Black September, Islamic Jihad, Hizballah, and a "Colonel Omar."

**8 August**

Greece: Bomb explodes in kitchen of London Hotel in Athens, wounding 14 tourists, seven of them British . . . claimed by ROSM.

**24 August**

Turkey: Bomb discovered in PLO office in Ankara . . . Abu Nidal suspected.

**30 August**

Greece: Palestinian arrested in Athens for plotting assassination of Jordanian Ambassador . . . claims to be member of Black September.

**3 September**

Greece: Two grenades thrown at swimming pool at Glyfada Hotel in Athens . . . 19 British tourists wounded . . . claimed by Black September and ROSM.

**16 September**

Italy: Grenades thrown at Cafe de Paris in Rome, injuring 38 tourists including 11 Americans . . . claimed by ROSM.

**18 September**

Greece: Palestinian magazine publisher assassinated in Athens . . . claimed by Black September.

**22 September**

United Kingdom: British authorities arrest two Palestinians found in possession of four handgrenades and charge them with conspiracy to cause explosions and to endanger life . . . target identity unknown . . . suspected Abu Nidal members.

**25 September**

Italy: Bomb explodes at British Air office in Rome, killing one and injuring 14 . . . claimed by ROSM.

**November**

Turkey: Twelve-man Abu Nidal team arrested for planning attack on Israeli Consulate in Istanbul.

**23 November**

Malta: Three gunmen seize Egypt Air Boeing 737 en route from Athens to Cairo and force it to land in Valletta, Malta . . . when hijackers' demand for refueling refused, they begin shooting selected passengers . . . one American, one Israeli killed; two Americans, one Israeli wounded . . . on 24 November Egyptian military commando unit storms plane, resulting in fire that ultimately kills 58 . . . Egyptian Revolution and Arab Revolutionary Brigades claim joint responsibility.

~~Secret~~

~~Secret~~**24 November**

Jordan: Husayn al-Bitar assassinated in Amman as result of internal feud . . . believed to be Sabri al-Banna's brother-in-law.

**27 December**

Austria: Three gunmen attack El Al ticket counter at Vienna's Schewacht Airport with grenades and AK-47s, killing three and wounding approximately 40.

**27 December**

Italy: Four gunmen attack El Al ticket counter at Rome's Fiumicino Airport with grenades and AK-47s, killing 16 and wounding approximately 80 . . . five Americans killed, 18 wounded.

**1986****5 September**

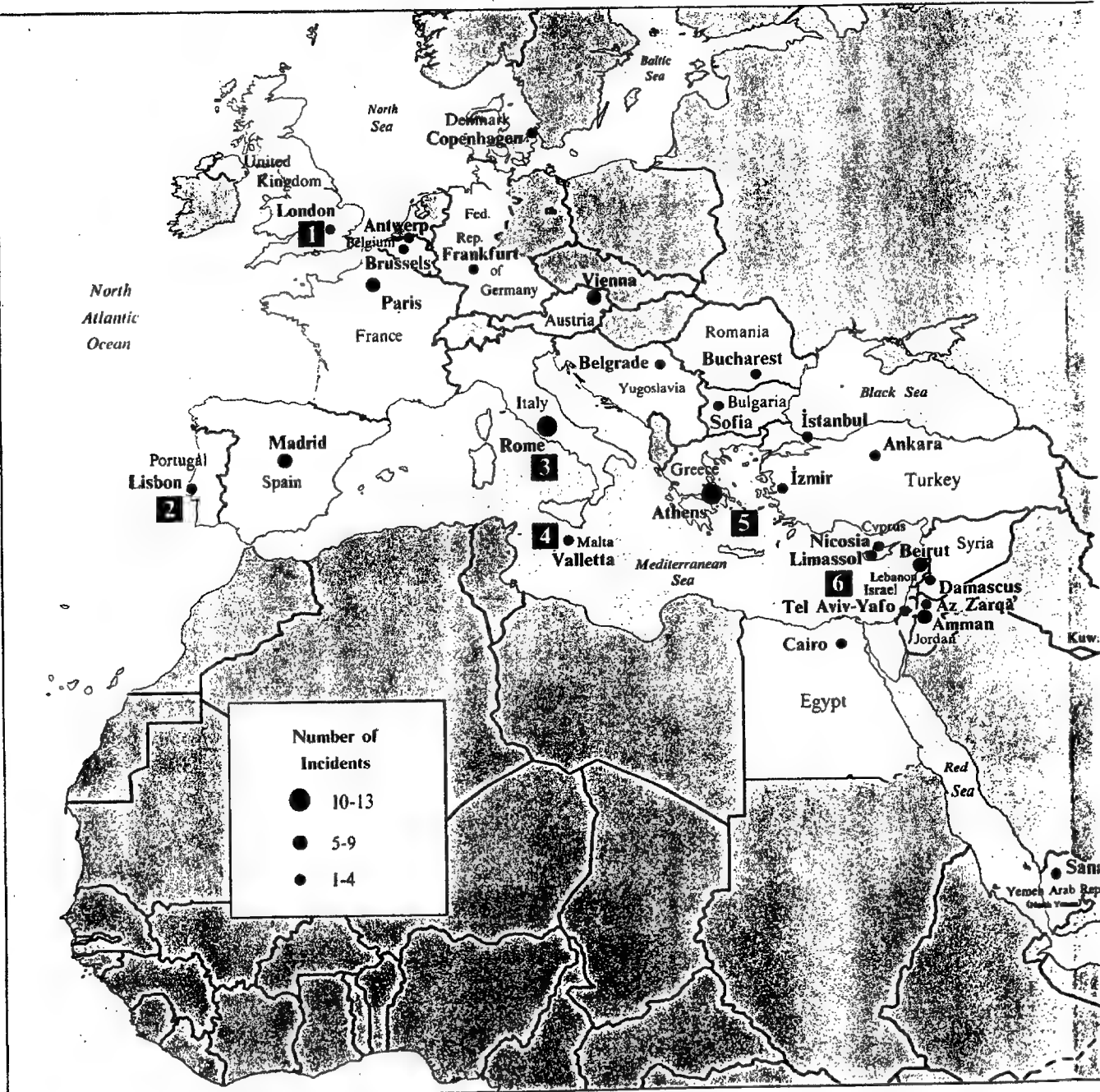
Pakistan: Four men armed with automatic weapons, handguns, and grenades storm Pan Am Boeing 747 in Karachi, killing 19 and injuring over 100 others . . . Abu Nidal suspected.

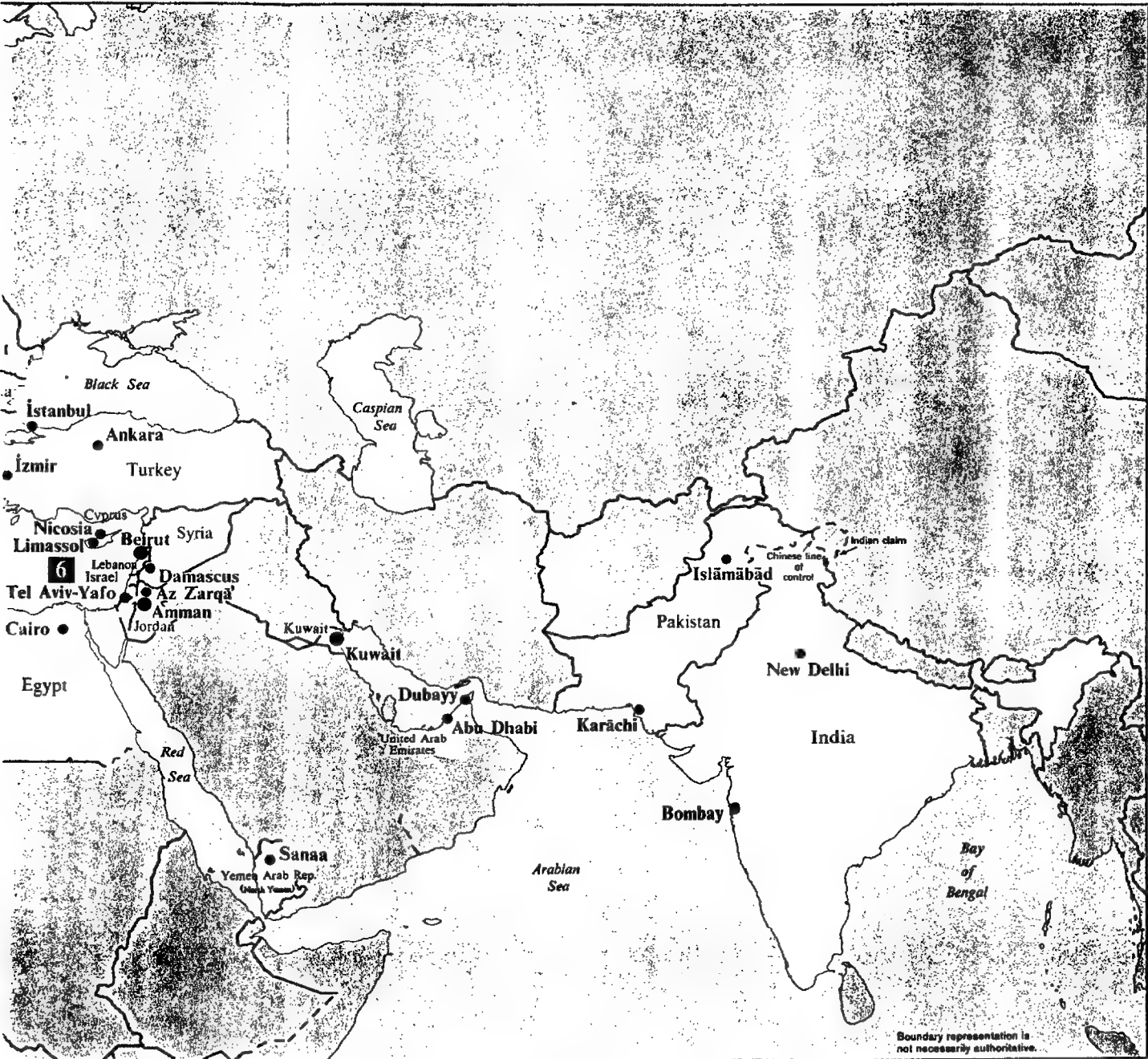
**6 September**

Turkey: Five gunmen attack Neve Shalom synagogue in Istanbul with grenade and machineguns . . . 25 killed . . . Abu Nidal suspected.

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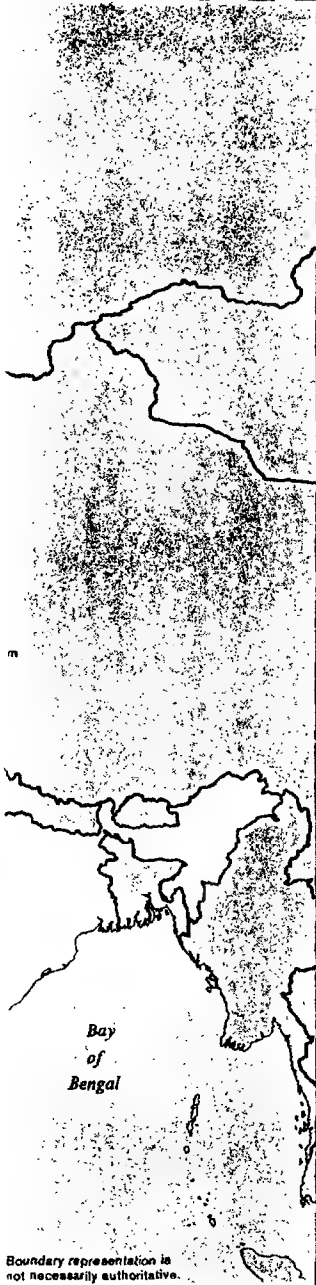
**Figure 6**  
**Abu Nidal Organization Activities, 1974-85**





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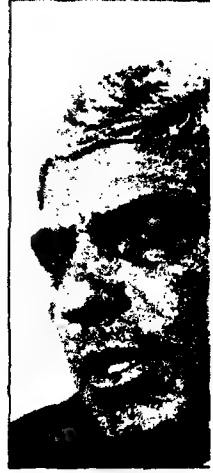
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*Shlomo Argov, Israeli Ambassador to the United Kingdom, whose attempted assassination in London by the Abu Nidal Organization provoked Israel's 1982 invasion of Lebanon, ostensibly done to eradicate the PLO presence there (U)*

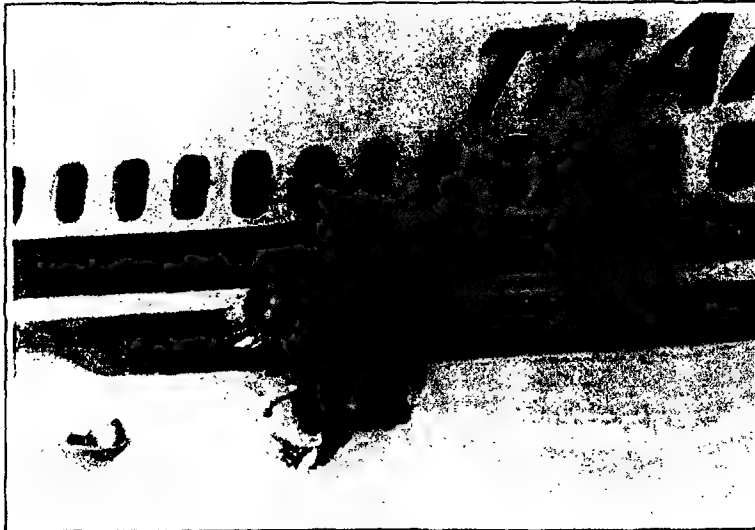
Newsweek ©

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*The assassination of Issa Sartawi, a prominent PLO moderate and confidant of Yasser Arafat, was claimed by the Abu Nidal Organization*

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*Hole ripped in the side of Athens-bound TWA airliner by explosion of bomb allegedly planted by Abu Nidal members (U)*

Wide World ©

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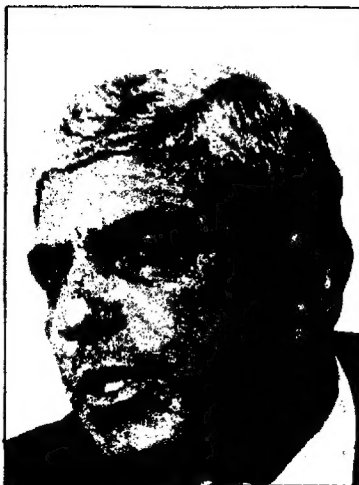
*The funeral of PLO Executive Committee member Fatah al-Arafat, December 1984, was claimed by the Abu Nidal Organization*





Newsweek ©

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Syria Agency ©

*The assassination of Issam Sartawi, a prominent PLO moderate and confidant of Yasir 'Arafat, was claimed by the Abu Nidal Organization (u)*

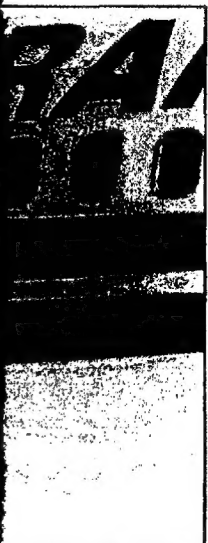
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UPI ©

*Injured passengers huddle on the floor of Rome's Leonardo da Vinci Airport during an attack by Abu Nidal guerrillas. (u)*

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Wide World ©

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Wide World ©

*The funeral of PLO Executive Committee member and prominent West Bank moderate Fahd Qawasmah, whose assassination in December 1984 was claimed by the Abu Nidal Organization (u)*

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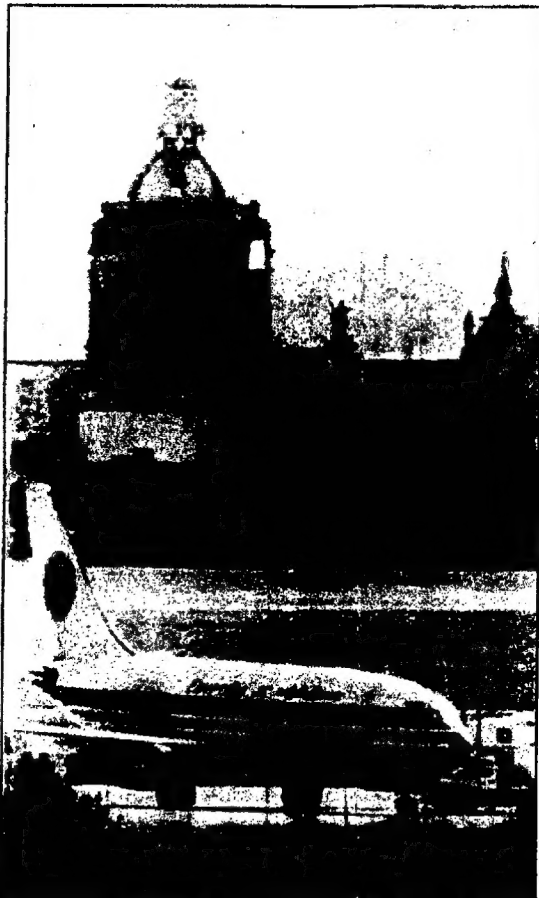
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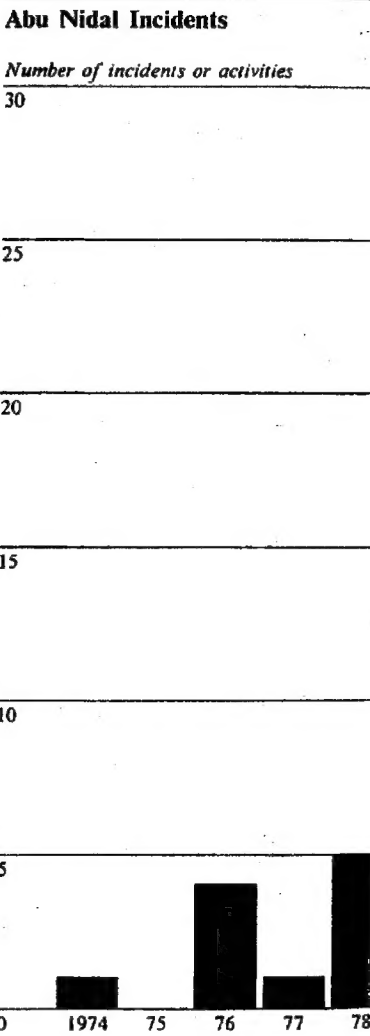
passengers huddle on the floor of Rome's Fiumicino Airport during an attack by Abu Nidal guerrillas. (U) UPI ©

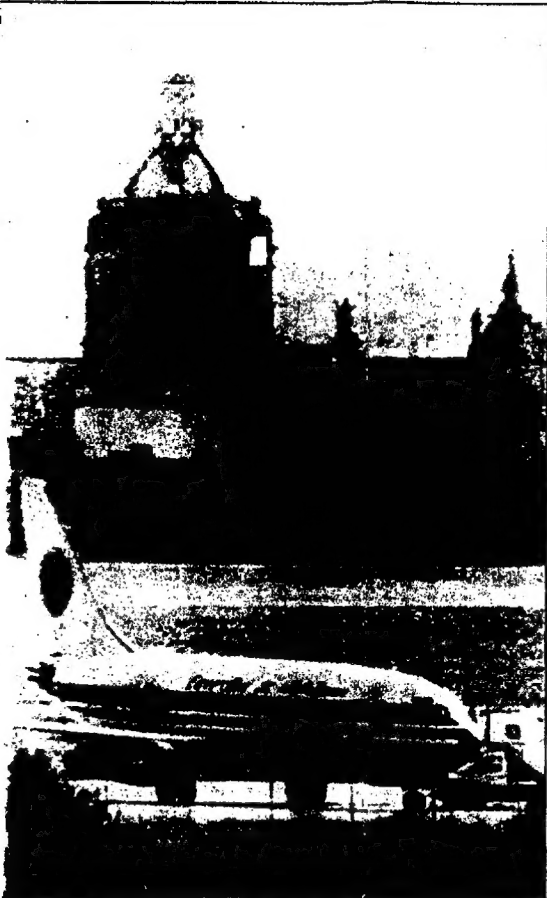


nt Wide World ©



Hijacked Egyptian airliner on the ground at Malta's Luqa Airport before failed Egyptian rescue raid (U) Wide World ©



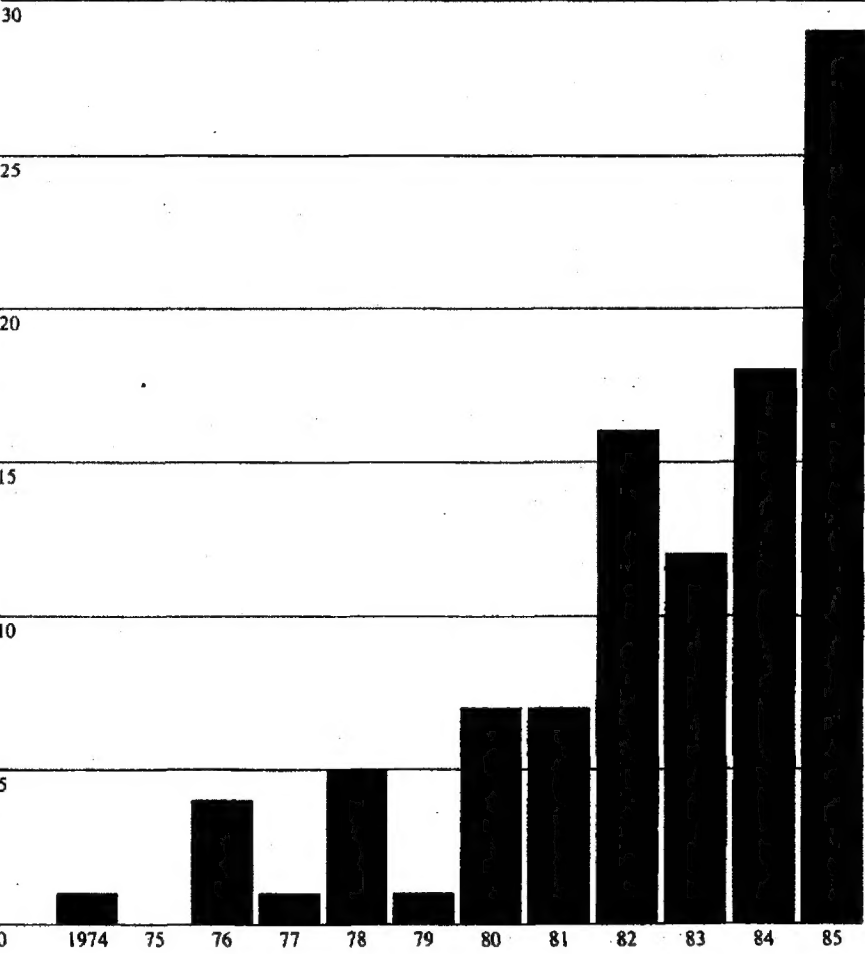


Hijacked Egyptian airliner on the ground at Malta's Luqa Airport before failed Egyptian rescue raid (U)

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Abu Nidal Incidents

Number of incidents or activities



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